

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

ACDA-12 /107 W

-----036985 191052Z /16

O P 191005Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8452

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LUSAKA 1787

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CASC, PINS, MOPS, CG, ZA

SUBJ: SHABA INCURSIONS: PREPARATIONS FOR EVACUATION TO LUSAKA

REF: LUSAKA 1778

1. BRITISH HICOM WAS INSTRUCTED MORNING MAY 19 TO OBTAIN

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GRZ AUTHORIZATION TO PRE-POSITION RAF AIRCRAFT AT LUSAKA

AIRPORT IN CASE REFUGEES FROM KOLWEZI EVACUATED TO LUSAKA.

GRZ FOREIGN MINISTRY, UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

ZIMBA, IS CHECKING THE REQUEST OUT WITH DEFENSE AND HAS

PROMISED TO GET BACK TO BRITS BY NOON LOCAL. IF CLEARNCE

IS RECEIVED, BRITS ANTICIPATE ARRIVAL OF RAF VC 10 IN LUSAKA

AT 2400 HOURS TODAY. THREE RAF C-130'S, DESCRIBED AS HOSPITAL

PLANES, WOULD NOT ARRIVE UNTIL SOMETIME SATURDAY, MAY 20. BELGIAN EMBASSY RECEIVED ASSURANCES EARLIER IN THE WEEK THAT CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT RPT CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT EVACUATING REFUGEES FROM SHABA WOULD BE EXPEDITIOUSLY CLEARED FOR LANDING IN ZAMBIA. AS OF 1000 HOURS LOCAL TODAY BELGIANS HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH MIGHT TRANSPORT REFUGEES FROM KOLWEZI.

2. EMBASSY LUSAKA HAS MADE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR MEETING AND CARING FOR THE FOURTEEN AMERICANS REPORTED TO BE IN KOLWEZI. A SECONDARY CONCERN BUT ONE WHICH COULD BECOME PRESSING IS THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICANS CITIZENS NEAR THE ZAMBIAN-SHABA BORDER (REFTEL). THESE AMERICANS COULD BE SUBJECT TO MOLESTATION BY RETREATING KATANGESE IF THEY ARE DRIVEN FROM KOLWEZI AND OTHER LOCATIONS IN SHABA. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED AMERICANS IN THAT AREA BY RADIO AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO BE ALERT TO POSSIBLE DETERIORATION IN SECURITY CONDITIONS IN THE BORDER AREA.

3. WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT ARE NOT BEING PRESSED FOR DETAILS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN WIDELY REPORTED EVACUATION EFFORT CONTEMPLATED BY BELGIANS AND FRENCH. CLINGERMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EVACUATIONS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA01787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780211-0120
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780540/aaaabhwe.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6438c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LUSAKA 1778
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2639525
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA INCURSIONS: PREPARATIONS FOR EVACUATION TO LUSAKA
TAGS: CASC, PINS, MOPS, CG, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6438c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014